

them off. On May 23rd I took fourteen single eggs and substituted those of the Gull-billed Tern. On May 25th all the nests had been cleared and the birds driven away by a party of three men with large baskets. Further on we *did* find a few nests which had been overlooked, two of which contained three eggs, and most of the others two—all “just turned.” One set were quite white, many others white with black and grey markings, and few lightish brown on a buff ground with darker marks. The nests were substantial, some being lined with a few Flamingo’s feathers, and all were placed on dry land, near the edge of a laguna.

I should like to mention that I twice saw a black- (not *brown*-) headed Gull, which I believe to have been *L. melanocephalus*. It was evidently not breeding and was quite alone, while it flew right off on our approach.

PODICIPES NIGRICOLLIS.

Uncommon. I saw Black-necked Grebes and found two nests on the Laguna Santa Olalla on April 29th which looked ready for laying ; but as they were still empty on May 14th, I concluded that the eggs had been taken. Several nests were found on a rushy swamp on Lucio Real in May, the eggs being stained a dark mahogany colour.

PODICIPES FLUVIATILIS.

Numerous. Nests were found from May 2nd onward ; one contained the large number of seven eggs.

VI.—On a small Collection of Birds from Efulen in Cameroon, W. Africa. By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D.

(Plate IV.)

MR. G. L. BATES, who has sent us several good collections from French Congo and Gaboon, has now forwarded a very interesting series of birds from Efulen, in the German Colony of Cameroon, and, in a letter, has given me the following account of the locality :—

“ This, as you know, is a forest-country, entirely covered with a large and thick growth of trees, except where they

have been cleared off the land around the native villages. The birds of the forest are largely distinct from those found in the gardens and the low bushes in the abandoned gardens in the clearings.

“ All the Weavers and Weaver-Finches that I have sent are confined to the clearings, unless it be the black red-breasted ‘ Edumvin ’ [*Spermospiza guttata*], which I have seen building in high trees in the forest. The ‘ Nyas ’ [*Hyphantornis cucullatus*] is the bird that builds the best-woven nests, with long tube-like entrances opening downwards. The different kinds of conical-billed birds fly about grassy places in twittering flocks; they build in tall grass or bushes, and form large gourd-shaped nests of fine grass-tops, with very narrow entrances opening upwards.

“ There are a number of birds which I take to be Thrushes. They include the ‘ Etyityo ’ [*Turdus saturatus*], which was found in the village-clearing, the different kinds of ‘ Ntyoñ ’ [*Alethe castanea*, *A. alexandri*] and ‘ Akalat ’ [*Turdinus albipectus*, *Callene cyornithopsis*], the Akwalat [*Neocossyphus poensis*], and the Ôtok [*Eurillas cameronensis*], all the small birds being procured on June 20th and 21st and on July 11th, and being caught by boys with snares on the ground in the forest, though some of them may be seen in the clearings too. The ‘ Ôtok ’ has a respectable little song.

“ The Sun-birds are confined to the village clearings. They are not only pretty and lively, but utter sweet notes, very fine and soft.

“ There are two Flycatchers of different styles : one is called ‘ Ngweñ ’ [*Diaphophya castanea*], and another ‘ Kuletyañ, ’ in imitation of its note, besides which there are two or three similar to those sent from Benito and Bata. They are usually seen sitting on bushes or trees, leaving their perch at intervals for a short circuit in the air to catch a flying insect. In the forest I have sometimes heard a sharp noise in the tree-tops like the snapping of a small whip often repeated, and I think it is made by birds of this sort, probably with their wings.

“ The Woodpeckers and Barbets are very characteristic of the forest-country, full of decaying trees and branches in

which insects work. I have several times seen a dead tree inhabited by a colony of the little 'Ôvôl' [? *Barbatula duchailui*] with the trunk and branches bored full of holes. These birds were not seen or heard tapping on the trees, and they did not run over the perpendicular tree-trunks like Woodpeckers, but had to take to the wing in order to change their position. The stiff-tailed Woodpeckers found here are often heard tapping in the forest, but not loudly like those at home, as if for the sake of making a noise. The man who killed the four large 'Ôvôl' on July 23rd said that there was a big colony of them in a dead tree. He climbed a neighbouring tree, so as to be within short range of the birds' holes, and shot nine of them, as they came and went, with his cross-bow and little palm-stalk arrows. All nine were males, for I examined them all in order to get specimens of both sexes. The little 'Ômvek' [*Barbatula scolopacea*] is continually heard uttering its monotonous 'kom! kom! kom!', the same note being repeated a dozen times, nearly as rapidly as the ticking of a watch, with a short pause—then the same thing occurs again as long as you have the patience to listen. It reminds one of the tinkling of a hammer on a small anvil.

"The little Owl called 'Ôbimven' is, according to the unvarying testimony of the natives, the bird that makes a weird call or song, usually heard at evening time, which consists of three clear notes, the last in a trilling tone, uttered rapidly and repeatedly. It reminds me a little of the cry of the Whip-poor-Will in America.

"Hornbills are very characteristic of the forests, the rushing noise of their wings and their harsh cries being always heard where there are trees and vines with the fruits they love. The crested 'Bebone' is generally (? always) seen near the ground in the forest, and is said to make a practice of following flocks of monkeys overhead in the trees, and picking up the fruits they drop."

The species represented in Mr. Bates's collection are as follows :—

1. *TYMPANISTRIA TYMPANISTRIA* (Temm. & Knip); Reichen. J. f. O. 1896, p. 50; Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 138 (1896); Sharpe, Hand-l. B. i. p. 83 (1899).

♂. Efulen, June 6, 1901. "Ôdu."

2. *ACCIPITER MELANOLEUCUS* A. Smith; Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 152 (1896); Sharpe, Hand-l. B. i. p. 254 (1899).

Astur melanoleucus Reichen. J. f. O. 1896, p. 50.

♀ ad. Efulen, May 30, 1901. "Obi."

3. *ASTUR CASTANILIUS* (Bp.); Sharpe, t. c. p. 248.

Astur macroscelides Reichen. t. c. p. 50.

♀ juv. Efulen, June 15, 1901. "Obi."

4. *SCOPS HOLERYTHRA* Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xii. p. 3 (1901).

♂. Efulen, June 4, 1901. "Akuñ."

This species has a yellow bill like *Scops icterorhyncha* of Shelley, which is its nearest ally, but it is uniformly bright cinnamon. It is difficult to believe that it can be the rufous phase of *S. icterorhyncha*, as there is no sign of the large white spots on the scapulars and wing-coverts, and the whole of the under surface is bright cinnamon, varied with small "arrow-head" streaks and spots of white, but without any sign of the dusky vermiculation which is a feature of *S. icterorhyncha*.

5. *HAPALODERMA ÆQUATORIALE* Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xii. p. 3 (1901).

♂ ad. Minkale, May 22, 1901.

This specimen I have compared with a large series of *H. narina* in the British Museum, and I find that it differs from all of them in the coarseness of the blackish vermiculations on the wing-coverts, which are very different in appearance when the two species are compared.

6. *BYCANISTES ALBOTIBIALIS* Cab. & Reichen.; Reichen. t. c. p. 16; Shelley, t. c. p. 114; Sharpe, Hand-l. B. ii. p. 69.

♂. Efulen, June 22, 1901. "Miam."

♀. „ June 1, 1901.

7. MELITTOPHAGUS AUSTRALIS (Reichen.) ; Sharpe, Hand-l. B. ii. p. 73.

Meropiscus australis Reichen. t. c. p. 19.

♀ ♀. Efulen, June 11, 1901.

These two specimens are remarkable for the *eau-de-nil* tint of the blue rump and upper tail-coverts, as well as of the two centre tail-feathers. On comparing them with the Aruwhimi-River examples obtained by the late Mr. Jameson, I find that three of the latter have these parts much more cobalt-blue, but a fourth scarcely differs from the Efulen pair, and I think that the greener appearance is due to the fresher plumage of the birds.

8. HELIOBUCCO BONAPARTII (Hartl.) ; Shelley, t. c. p. 127 ; Sharpe, Hand-l. B. ii. p. 180.

Gymnobucco bonapartei Reichen. t. c. p. 12.

♂. Efulen, May 25, 1901.

9. BARBATULA DUCHAILLUI Cass. ; Shelley, t. c. p. 128 ; Reichen. t. c. p. 12 ; Sharpe, t. c. p. 181.

♂. Minkale, May 22, 1901. "Ēvegevō."

10. BARBATULA SCOLOPACEA (Temm.) ; Shelley, t. c. p. 129 ; Reichen. t. c. p. 12 ; Sharpe, t. c. p. 182.

♂. Efulen, June 3, 1901. "Ōmvek."

11. DIAPHOROPHYIA CASTANEA (Fraser) ; Shelley, t. c. p. 97 ; Reichen. t. c. p. 21 ; Sharpe, Hand-l. B. iii. p. 245 (1901).

♀. Efulen, May 21, 1901.

♂. „ June 3, 1901. "Ngweñ."

12. BLEDA SYNDACTYLA (Swains.) ; Sharpe, Hand-l. B. iii. p. 322.

Xenocichla syndactyla Shelley, t. c. p. 81.

♂. Efulen, June 20, 1901. "Ntyeñ."

13. ANDROPADUS SERINUS (J. & E. Verr.) ; Reichen. J. f. O. 1896, p. 36.

Bleda serina Sharpe, t. c. p. 322.

Pyrrhurus serinus Shelley, t. c. p. 64.

♂ ♀. Efulen, June 24, 1901. "Atya."

14. EURILLAS CAMERONENSIS Reichen.

Andropadus cameronensis, Reichen. J. f. O. 1896, p. 63.

♀. Efulen, June 3, 1901. "Ôtok."

The dimensions of the bill and wing (2.55 inches) are smaller than in *E. virens*, but the character of the nasal bristles seems to be one of great variability, and I doubt whether the two species can be separated.

15. TURDINUS BATESI. (Plate IV. fig. 2.)

Turdinus batesi Sharpe, Bull. B.O.C. vol. xii. p. 2 (1901).

♀. Efulen, June 3, 1901.

A very distinct species, easily recognisable by its black head, grey eyebrow, and black ear-coverts; the belly and throat are white.

16. TURDINUS ALBIPECTUS Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 209; Shelley, t. c. p. 66.

♀ ♀. Efulen, June 20, 1901. "Ákalat."

This is a small species with a very distinct white belly and fulvescent flanks. It is closely allied to *T. fulvescens*, but the latter has the under tail-coverts fulvous brown like the flanks, whereas *T. albipectus* has them chestnut or ferruginous, in strong contrast to the white belly.

17. STIPHORNIS GABONENSIS Sharpe; Reichen. J. f. O. 1896, p. 65; Shelley, t. c. p. 67.

♂ ♀ ♀. Efulen, June 19-21, 1901.

All three specimens agree very well with the type in the British Museum.

18. ALETHE CASTANEA (Cass.); Reichen. t. c. p. 65; Shelley, t. c. p. 83.

♂ ♀. Efulen, June 3-6, 1901. "Ngofio" or "Ntyoñ."

19. ALETHE ALEXANDRI Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xii. p. 4 (1901).

♂ ♀. Efulen, June 6, 1901. "Ntyoñ."

A dark form of *A. castanonota* Sharpe, from the Gold Coast, but having the ear-coverts deep black. Capt. Shelley says that the last-named bird is the *Criniger poliocephalus*



J.G.Keulemans del et lith

Mintern Bros. imp.

1. CALLENE CYORNITHOPSIS.
2. TURDINUS BATESI.

of Bonaparte (Consp. i. p. 262). If this be the case, the original description is most carelessly composed.

20. CALLENE CYORNITHOPSIS. (Plate IV. fig. 1.)

Callene cyornithopsis Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xii. p. 4 (1901).

♂. Efulen, June 20, 1901. "Akalat."

This has the appearance of a female *Cyornis*, and is apparently quite different from any bird described from Africa. Compared with *C. isabellæ*, the colours are quite unlike; and it will be noted that Mr. Bates has determined the type specimen to be a male.

21. NEOCOSSYPHUS POENSIS (Fraser); Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 85; Reichen. t. c. p. 66.

Cossypha poensis Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vii. p. 36.

♂. Efulen, June 20-21, 1901. "Akwalat."

22. TURDUS SATURATUS (Cab.); Sharpe, in Seebohm's Monogr. Turdidæ, part vii. (1899); Reichen. t. c. p. 66.

Turdus pelios pt. Shelley, t. c. p. 88.

♂ ad. Minkale, May 21, 1901. "Etyityo."

♂ juv. Efulen, May 25, 1901.

♂ ad. „ June 5, 1901.

23. CISTICOLA RUFIPILEATA Reichen. J. f. O. 1891, p. 69, 1896, p. 43.

Cisticola ruficapilla (Fraser, nec A. Smith); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vii. p. 248.

♂. Efulen, June 1, 1901. "Abankwate."

24. CYANOMITRA CYANOLÆMA (Jard.); Shelley, B. Africa, ii. p. 130 (1900).

Cinnyris cyanolæma Reichen. t. c. p. 65.

♂. Efulen, June 24, 1901. "Nzesel."

25. SPORÆGINTHUS MELPODUS (Vieill.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 325 (1890).

Estrellda melpoda Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 30; Reichen. t. c. p. 34.

♂. Efulen, May 27, 1901.

26. SPERMESTES POENSIS (Fraser); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 262; Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 28.

♂ ♀. Efulen, May 24 to June 1, 1901. "Ejile."

It is extremely difficult to distinguish *Spermestes stigmatophorus* from *S. poensis*, as the amount of white spots or bars on the upper tail-coverts is subject to great variation. Some specimens have no bars or spots at all, others a few, while in others these white marks are plentiful. This variation is observable in typical specimens from Fernando Po: the Museum has three of the original types.

27. HETERHYPHANTES NIGRICOLLIS (Vieill.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 415; Shelley, t. c. p. 37.

Symplectes nigricollis Reichen. t. c. p. 30.

♂. Efulen, May 29, 1901.

28. HYPHANTORNIS CUCULLATUS (P. L. S. Müll.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vii. p. 451; Shelley, t. c. p. 40.

♂. Efulen, May 27, 1901. "Nyas."

♂. „ June 8, 1901.

♀. „ June 13, 1901.

One of the male birds has the chestnut of the hind-neck mixed with bright yellow, and shews an approach to *H. bohndorffi*.

29. SPERMOSPIZA GUTTATA (Vieill.); Sharpe, t. c. p. 500; Reichen. t. c. p. 33; Shelley, t. c. p. 32.

♂ ♂. Efulen, June 15-17, 1901. "Edumvin."

VII.—*On the Collections of Birds made by Sir Harry Johnston, K.C.B., in Equatorial Africa.* By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D., F.Z.S., &c., Assistant Keeper, Department of Zoology, British Museum.

(Plate V.)

THE following is a list of the specimens collected by Sir Harry Johnston during his travels as H.B.M. Commissioner in Uganda and the neighbouring territories. Sir Harry entered the Uganda Protectorate and commenced collecting immediately, his assistant being Mr. Walter G. Doggett. Birds